



National Park Service Celebrates 15th Annual National Trails Day with Events Nationwide

Every year on the first Saturday in June, over one million hikers, bikers, equestrians, paddlers, and other trail users flock to their favorite trails to discover, celebrate, and learn about trails as part of National Trails Day. This year, the Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program of the National Park Service (NPS) participated in numerous National Trails Day events nationwide. Through the Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) Program, the National Park Service provides technical assistance to community groups and local, State, and federal government agencies so they can conserve rivers, preserve open space, and develop trails and greenways.



NRT celebration on Orange Heritage Trail. Photo courtesy Karl Beard.

Now in its fifteenth year, National Trails Day — the largest annual single-day trails and outdoor celebration in the country — consists of activities including hiking, biking, horseback riding, paddling, trail dedications, instructional workshops, park clean-ups, trail work projects, and much more.

The NPS RTCA Program assisted with community events in Florida, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Virginia, Washington, and Washington, D.C. Events included new trail dedications, workshops, educational exhibits, mountain bike rides, water trail paddling, trail restoration and maintenance, and guided hikes on America's favorite trails.

RTCA staff celebrated National Trails Day (NTD) with communities across the country. Events included:

- **Florida (Volusia County):** A free event on June 2 at Gemini Springs Park from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Festivities included entertainment, refreshments, guided nature hikes, tent/booth displays, and bicycle rides along the Spring-to-Spring Trail. *Contact: Charlotte Gillis*
- **Maine (Machias):** A celebration of progress on creating the 87-mile Down East Sunrise Trail, from Ellsworth to Pembroke, Maine. The event included words from dignitaries, a parade from the trail to a local supporting business where a barbeque and children's games were held, as well as a bike ride and trail walk. *Contact: Julie Isbill*
- **Massachusetts (Attleboro):** A 2-mile walk starting at the Balfour Riverwalk Park, along the 10 Mile River (behind the Community Garden) and up to the Larson Woods preservation site. The local committee received National Recreation Trail (NRT) designation for the Balfour Riverwalk. A small group of kayakers paddled to the Riverwalk Park. *Contact: Steve Golden*
- **New Hampshire (Andover):** A community walk and clean-up of winter blow downs along the Northern Rail Trail with the Friends of the Northern Rail Trail in Merrimack County. *Contact: Lelia Mellen*
- **New York (Goshen):** A lunchtime walk with Orange County Commissioners and employees to mark the news of the Orange Heritage Trail's NRT designation. The NRT

marker was presented to the County Parks Commissioner by RTCA representative, Karl Beard. The County Health Commissioner and Planning Commissioner were also in attendance. *Contact: Karl Beard*

- **New York (New York):** A Hike The Heights 3 Giraffe Path event to promote fitness and community spirit. Groups hiked from different starting points on the proposed City Life is Moving Bodies trail and converged for a day of games, races, woodland hikes, food, and a lot of fun. *Contact: Joanne Dittersdorf*
- **Oregon (Portland):** A Ribbon Cutting and Fun Paddle for the Final Section of the Willamette River Water Trail. Governor Kulongoski, Deputy Secretary of the Interior Lynn Scarlett, Congressman Wu, NPS PWR Deputy Regional Director Rory Westberg, and others dedicated the opening of the Upper Section of the trail. A fun paddle for all followed the dedication. *Contact: Dan Miller*
- **Pennsylvania (Elverson):** A four-day visit of the International Mountain Bicycling Association's Subaru/IMBA Trail Care Crew at Hopewell Furnace National Historic Site and French Creek State Park to explore possible options for bike use at the national park and potential multi-use connections between trails in the national and state parks. The visit included a Trailbuilding School, with field work sessions, social events, and an exhilarating ride through French Creek State Park. *Contact: Julie Bell*
- **Pennsylvania (Pittsburgh):** A Trail Banner Painting Workshop for the Steel Valley Trail. Environmental Artist Ann Rosenthal guided the general public in painting about 30 banners at the Three Rivers Arts Festival on June 2-3. The banners will be used as a wayfinding system. *Contact: Peggy Pings*
- **Pennsylvania (Shawnee on the Delaware):** Later this month, a special celebration of the National Recreation Trail designation for the Delaware River Water Trail's Middle Delaware section, as part of the annual Delaware River Sojourn. A fun paddle through scenic Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area will be followed by the water trail dedication ceremony at a riverfront resort. *Contact: Julie Bell*
- **South Carolina (Union & Newberry Counties):** Two opportunities to experience new or little-known sections of the Palmetto Trail: A sneak preview and hike of the soon-to-be-opened Enoree Passage in the Sumter National Forest, and a morning hike in the Lynch's Woods Passage followed by a lunch and raffle. *Contact: Charlotte Gillis*
- **Virginia (Jamestown):** A celebration of National Trails Day – walking, biking, jogging or skating to Jamestown "Festival Park," along the newly completed section of the Virginia Capital Trail in James City County. Activities included a picnic and free concert featuring the Runaway String Band, sponsor giveaways, exhibitors and rest stop. A bike parking corral was provided by Active Williamsburg Alliance. *Contact: Ursula Lemanski*
- **Washington (Shelton):** A trail walk occurred on Goldsborough Creek Trail, accessible from downtown, with a stop at a trail booth to comment on potential trail routes generated for Mason County's Regional Trails Plan. *Contact: Sue Abbott*
- **Washington, D.C. (Fort Dupont Park):** A celebration of NTD with speakers from the American Hiking Society, the National Park Service, and local nonprofit organization, Linking Communities for Educational Success (LINK), at Fort Dupont Park, in southeast DC. The public event included guided hikes, light trail maintenance, educational presentations, and more. *Contact: Corita Waters or Cherri Espersen*

NPS RTCA staff assist with approximately 300 projects each year and have worked in all 50 states. On average, our partners protect more than 700 miles of rivers, create over 1,300 miles of trails, and conserve more than 60,300 acres of open space each year.

For more details on the RTCA Program and contact information, visit www.nps.gov/rtca or call (202) 354-6900. For more information about National Trails Day, visit www.americanhiking.org or call (301) 565-6704.